



## **MINUTES GLENDALE WATER & POWER COMMISSION**

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**CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBER  
613 E. Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Glendale, CA 91206**

**Monday, October 05, 2020, 4:00 PM**

### **1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Present: President Pro Tem Lall, Commissioners Avanesian, Jazmadarian and Flanigan

Absent: President Kedikian

### **2. GWP COMMISSION/ STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

### **3. REPORTS – INFORMATION**

#### **a. Summer Heat Impacts**

Mr. Dan Scorza, Chief Assistant General Manager – Electric, described the challenges in providing electric service during two recent heat waves, occurring on August 18, 2020, when the temperature reached 108 degrees, and over Labor Day weekend, when the temperature reached 115 degrees. Mr. Scorza described several factors that affected GWP's ability to serve load during the heat events, including generation, transmission, distribution system constraints. Mr. Scorza noted that GWP crews worked around the clock, and GWP customers were instrumental in conserving energy. Mr. Scorza and Mr. Mark Young, Deputy General Manager, responded to questions from the Commissioners.

In response to questions from Commissioner Lall, Mr. Young clarified that a "stage 3 CAISO alert" is the worst stage and means blackouts are imminent; and clarified that a Magnolia outage over Labor Day weekend was a 24-hour outage. In response to questions from Commissioner Avanesian, Mr. Scorza explained GWP's practices for managing the load on transformers and its fire mitigation plan. In response to the questions from Commissioner Flannigan, Mr. Young explained that the lower peak load during the higher temperature event over Labor Day was a result of the fact that it was a weekend. Mr. Scorza explained that, while converting the system from 4kV to 12kV does not help during extreme heat events, the 12kV conversion is instrumental in reducing the system's amount of current flowing, making the system more efficient. The Commissioners congratulated GWP on keeping the system running and thanked customers for their role in conserving energy during the heat waves.

**b. Water Resource Update**

Mr. Mike De Ghetto, Chief Assistant General Manager - Water, presented an update on GWP's water resources and water supply outlook. Mr. De Ghetto covered GWP's customer profile, which is mostly residential, and sources of water supply, including local groundwater from the San Fernando and Verdugo basins, recycled water, and water from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). Mr. De Ghetto noted that 2020 was the hottest and driest summer for the Colorado Basin states (one of MWD's water supply sources), but regional investments have allowed MWD to maintain storage to manage water supply. Mr. De Ghetto discussed future water projects at the local and regional level. He described the impact of conservation on water demand and presented historical and current annual trends in monthly potable water production. Mr. De Ghetto presented graphics showing usage patterns by type of customer and the correlation between single-family customer water consumption to weather and precipitation. Mr. De Ghetto noted that GWP's water system has the highest complexity rating from the State of California for both distribution and treatment, based upon the City's size and water treatment trains.

Mr. Ghetto described GWP's highly qualified water staff as the water department's greatest resource. Mr. De Ghetto responded to questions from the Commissioners. In response to a question from Commissioner Avanesian, Mr. De Ghetto explained that the County actively manages rainwater capture at its spreading grounds. In response to a question from Commissioner Flanigan, Mr. De Ghetto provided some background on the 20-year San Fernando Basin water rights litigation and the resulting judgment that provides Glendale with a 20% return flow credit. In response to a question from Commissioner Jazmadarian, Mr. De Ghetto provided information regarding the amount of recycled water available for GWP's use and the factors that affect this, including the 211 petitions, upgrades to the recycled water treatment plant, wastewater flows, and regulatory changes, among others; GWP's goal is to use 100% of its recycled water. In response to Commissioner Jazmadarian's question, Mr. De Ghetto provided background on GWP's efforts to promote and retain qualified staff.

**c. Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Craig Kuennen, Deputy General Manager, provided an update on GWP's Strategic Plan. Mr. Kuennen described GWP's vision, mission, and core values: excellence, integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, teamwork, respect, accountability, compassion, cultural awareness. Mr. Kuennen presented GWP's progress on critical initiatives in six areas of strategic focus: Affordability and Fiscal Responsibility; Exceptional Customer Service; Workforce; Sustainability; Automation, and Innovation.

Mr. Kuennen responded to questions from the Commissioners. In response to a question from Commissioner Avanesian, Mr. Kuennen stated that GWP's area of most tremendous success over the past year is in the areas of affordability and Fiscal Responsibility and Exceptional Customer Service; and GWP's area of greatest challenge was about reliability, due to COVID-19 making it challenging for crews in the field. Commissioner Flanigan wondered if it might be time to update GWP's goals to make them more rigorous where warranted, potentially in the area of electric vehicles and Time-of-Use rates. Mr. Kuennen concurred that the goals are a few years old and should be revisited and updated. Commissioner Lall suggested that GWP's goals should be updated to reflect GWP's core values as a municipal utility, including sustainability and innovation.

**4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Jerry Johnson (requesting temporary abatement of GWP Demand Charge rate for commercial customers during COVID-19).

**5. AGENDA FORECAST**

The Commissioners reviewed the agenda forecast for the November and December 2020 meetings.

Commissioner Lall requested a discussion regarding the governor’s announcement on electrification of the vehicle fleet over the next 10-15 years and the impact of that on GWP. Commissioners Flanigan and Jazmadarian concurred.

Commissioner Flanigan requested a discussion of options on demand charge relief for commercial customers. Commissioners Lall and Avanesian concurred.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Commissioner Lall

Seconded by: Commissioner Avanesian

Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.